IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. to 16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A sticker printing apparatus for printing a desired sticker by operating a touch panel overlaid on a display screen, comprising:

storage means for storing a plurality of images, which are to be parts for forming a sticker, as a plurality of logical layers which overlie each other in a fixed order;

selection means for selecting one of a plurality of background patterns displayed on the display screen by using the touch panel;

background image display means for displaying on the display screen a background image corresponding to the background pattern selected by said selection means and storing~~, in a predetermined storage,~~ the background image ~~as one of a plurality of logical layers which overlie each other in a fixed order;~~ as a bitmap image data in a layer corresponding to a background image layer among the plurality of logical layers in said storage means;

input means for inputting, by using the touch panel, a plurality of character strings to be printed on a sticker, each of said plurality of character strings being assigned to each of the plurality of logical layers;

control means for generating a set of bitmap image data corresponding to an inputted character string and storing the bitmap image data in ~~the predetermined storage,~~ a layer assigned to the inputted character string among the plurality of logical layers of said storage means, each time a character string is inputted by said input means;

~~layout~~ generating means for generating image data of a sticker by laying out each of the ~~stored~~ sets of bitmap image data stored in said storage means in accordance with said fixed order and predetermined positions assigned to each of the logical layers;

~~generating means for generating image data by overlaying each of the sets of image data obtained by said layout means on the background image;~~

edit means for, when a desired layer to be edited is designated by using said touch panel with regard to image data obtained by said generating means, editing the designated layer, and re-generating image data of the sticker by overlaying bitmap image data of the edited layer and bitmap image data of non-edited layers in accordance with said fixed order and the positions assigned to each of the logical layers; and

output means for, when an output instruction is inputted by using said touch panel, outputting the image data of the sticker, obtained by said generating means or said edit means, to printing means.

18. (canceled)

19. (original) The sticker printing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said input means comprises:

means for displaying predetermined sample character strings on the display screen;

means for selecting a character string from the displayed sample character strings by using the touch panel;

means for setting the touch panel as character input means; and

means for displaying a virtual keyboard for character input operation when the touch panel is set as character input means.

20. (original) The sticker printing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said input means comprises means for setting a character design.

21. (previously presented) The sticker printing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the sticker has a form corresponding to a senjafuda, the form consisting of a header (kashira), a main body, and an insertion portion (sashifuda), and

wherein said input means inputs respective character strings for the header (kashira), main body, and insertion portion (sashifuda).

22. (original) The sticker printing apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said printing means prints plural stickers on one sheet.

23. (previously presented) The sticker printing apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising setting means for setting whether or not to insert the insertion portion (sashifuda) into the form,

wherein in a case that the setting means sets to insert the insertion portion (sashifuda) into the form, a part of the stickers in one sheet are printed with the insertion portion (sashifuda) inserted into the form.

24. (previously presented) The sticker printing apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:

memory means for storing data inputted by said input means; and

designation means for designating to return to an input subject for changing already-inputted data,

wherein in a case where said designation means designates to return to an input subject, contents stored in said memory means are used as a default setting of the input subject.

25. (currently amended) A control method of a sticker printing apparatus for printing a desired sticker by operating a touch panel overlaid on a display screen, comprising:

a storing step of storing a plurality of images, which are to be parts for forming a sticker, as a plurality of logical layers which overlie each other in a fixed order;

a selection step of selecting one of a plurality of background patterns displayed on the display screen by using the touch panel;

a background image display step of displaying on the display screen a background image corresponding to the background pattern selected in said selection step and storing~~, in a predetermined storage,~~ the background image ~~as one of a plurality of logical layers which overlie each other in a fixed order~~ as a bitmap image data in a layer corresponding to a background image layer among the plurality of logical layers stored in the storing step;

an input step of inputting, by using the touch panel, a plurality of character strings to be printed on a sticker, each of the plurality of character strings being assigned to a respective on of the plurality of logical layers;

a control step of generating a set of bitmap image data corresponding to an inputted character string and storing the bitmap image data in ~~the predetermined storage;~~ a layer assigned to the inputted character string among the plurality of logical layers stored in the storing step, each time a character string is inputted in said input step;

a ~~layout~~ generating step of generating image date of a sticker by laying out each of the ~~stored~~ sets of bitmap image data stored in the storing step in accordance with the fixed order and predetermined positions assigned to each of the logical layers;

~~a generating step of generating image data by overlaying each of the sets of image data obtained in said layout step on the background image;~~

an editing step of, when a desired layer to be edited is designated by using said touch panel with regard to image data obtained in said generating step, editing the designated layer, and re-generating image data of the sticker by overlaying bitmap image data of the edited layer and bitmap image data of non-edited layers in accordance with the fixed order and the positions assigned to each of the logical layers; and

an output step of, when an output instruction is inputted by using the touch panel, outputting the image data of the sticker, obtained in said generating step, to a printing unit.

26. (currently amended) A storage medium storing program codes to serve as a sticker printing apparatus, which prints a desired sticker by operating a touch panel overlaid on a display screen, said program codes having functions including:

storage means for storing a plurality of images, which are to be parts for forming a sticker, as a plurality of logical layers which overlie each other in a fixed order;

selection means for selecting one of a plurality of background patterns displayed on the display screen by using the touch panel;

background image display means for displaying on the display screen a background image corresponding to the background pattern selected by said selection means and storing~~, in a predetermined storage,~~ the background image ~~as one of a plurality of logical layers which overlie each other in a fixed order~~ as a bitmap image data in a layer corresponding to a background image layer among the plurality of logical layers in said storage means;

input means for inputting, by using the touch panel, a plurality of character strings to be printed on a sticker, each of said plurality of character strings being assigned to each of the plurality of logical layers;

control means for generating a set of bitmap image data corresponding to an inputted character string and storing the bitmap image data in ~~the predetermined storage,~~ a layer assigned to the inputted character string among the plurality of logical layers of said storage means, each time a character string is inputted by said input means;

~~layout~~ generating means for generating image data of a sticker by laying out each of the ~~stored~~ sets of bitmap image data stored in said storage means in accordance with said fixed order and predetermined positions assigned to each of the logical layers;

~~generating means for generating image data by overlaying each of the sets of image data obtained by said layout means on the background image;~~

edit means for, when a desired layer to be edited is designated by using said touch panel with regard to image data obtained by said generating means, editing the designated layer, and re-generating image data of the sticker by overlaying bitmap image

data of the edited layer and bitmap image data of non-edited layers in accordance with said fixed order and the positions assigned to each of the logical layers; and

output means for, when an output instruction is inputted by using said touch panel, outputting the image data of the sticker, obtained by said generating means or said edit means, to printing means.

27. to 31. (canceled)

32. (currently amended) The apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the sets of image data obtained by said ~~layout~~ generating means are each arranged at predetermined fixed positions on the background image.

33. to 35. (canceled)

36. (currently amended) A printing apparatus for printing an image on a desired media, comprising:

storage means for storing a plurality of images, which are to be parts for forming an image to be printed, as a plurality of logical layers which overlie each other in a fixed order;

selection means for selecting one of a plurality of background patterns displayed on a display screen and storing a background image corresponding to the selected background pattern as image data in a layer assigned to a background image layer among the plurality of logical layers of said storage means;

background image display means for displaying on the display screen [[a]] the background image corresponding to the background pattern selected by said ~~selecting~~ selection means;

input means for inputting a plurality of character strings to be printed on said media, each of the plurality of character strings being assigned to each of a plurality of logical layers;

control means for generating image data corresponding to an inputted character string and storing the image data in a layer ~~predetermined~~ assigned to the character string among the plurality of logical layers of said storage means, each time a character string is inputted by said input means;

~~storing control means for storing, in the predetermined storage, the background image as one of the plurality of logical layer;~~

~~layout~~ generating means for generating image data to be printed by laying out each of the ~~stored~~ images ~~and background image~~ stored in said storage means in accordance with [[a]] fixed order and predetermined positions assigned to each of the logical layers;

~~generating means for generating image data by overlaying each of the image data obtained by said layout means;~~

edit means for, when a desired layer to be edited is designated by using said input means, editing the designated layer, and re-generating image data to be printed by overlaying image data of the edited layer and image data of non-edited layers in accordance with said fixed order and the predetermined positions assigned to each of the logical layers; and

output means for, when an output instruction is inputted by using said input means, outputting the image data, obtained by said generating means or said edit means, to printing means.

37. (currently amended) A printing apparatus for printing an image on a desired sheet, comprising:

input means for entering a character and an image which are parts for forming an output image;

storing control means for storing, in a predetermined storage, the character and the image, as each one of a plurality of logical layers, inputted by said input means;

edit means for, when a desired layer to be edited is designated, editing the designated layer; and

layout means for laying out each of the stored character and image read from each of plurality of logical layers in accordance with a fixed order,

wherein said layout means comprises rotation means for rotating an image of a layer.

38. (currently amended) The printing apparatus according to claim 37, further comprising:

printing means for, when an output instruction is inputted by using said input means, printing [[the]] image data obtained by said layout means.

39. (new): The printing apparatus according to claim 37, further comprising selection means for selecting layers to be outputted,

wherein said layout means lays out images of the layers selected by said selection means.